

Under Phlebotomy we learn that it is especially for the sanguineous, bilious, and other robust persons, for the depressed individual and nurses rarely, and never for pregnant women. Also that blood-letting is useful in high fever, but always with prudence. Purgatives and clisters are recommended in certain cases. The most valuable sideline in the treatise is the notes on three post-mortems in Chapter 8, and another in Chapter 15. In this last the petechial hæmorrhages covering the surface of the lung are described, as also the great swelling of the spleen, and that it was four pounds in weight. These observations entitle O'Glacan to be claimed as an early pioneer in pathological anatomy, the father of Pathology being generally regarded as Morgagni (1682-1771). Modern readers might be interested in one of O'Glacan's prescriptions. It is as follows: R. Mithraditii et Confectionis de Hyacintho āā, one ounce; Rad. Tormentillæ, 2 drachms; Boli Armeni et Coralli rubri prep. āā, 1 drachm; Diamargaritanis frigidi et Diatriasantali āā, 1 drachm. Sacchari Candi, 3 drachms. Conservæ acetosæ, 2 ounces. Camphoræ, 20 grs. Syrupi de succo limonum, quod sufficit. *Signa*.—Make a mixture after the manner of an opiate, and take one drachm by itself, or with a convenient liquor, as often as necessary.

In an age of polypharmacy the above was an agreeable mixture, but there were some others not so palatable, such as "*unum vidimus uno aut altero suæ urinæ haustu curatum*." There are many other points of interest in this little volume, but lack of space forbids me to mention them. Those interested in historical medicine will find plenty of original material for study in the lives of Irish physicians.

CELLULAR LATEX MATTRESSES

WITH so many County Infirmaries being converted into modern hospitals, any matter referring to their furnishings is of special interest to the medical profession, and the experiences of other hospitals are of value. For this reason we should like to draw the attention of our readers to the cellular latex type of mattress.

All mattresses supplied to Leeds Corporation during this year are of this type, and the Leeds Maternity Hospital has also decided to have these when replacing the mattresses now in use.

The cellular latex mattresses have been approved by the Medical Supplies Department after lengthy tests, and orders for them are being placed by H.M. Office of Works for the Ministry of Pensions, the Admiralty, and the Royal Air Force.

These mattresses are being adopted throughout the country because of their comfort and their hygienic merit. Owing to their construction, the texture of the material is constantly ventilated, for the cells of the latex "breathe," thus creating conditions which are of immense value in the care of the sick and the bed-ridden.